

Remarks

Claims 1-12, 21-22, and 38 were pending in the subject application. By way of this Amendment, new claims 40 and 41 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 21-22, and 38-41 are now before the Examiner. The undersigned avers no new matter has been added by this Amendment. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is earnestly requested.

On July 26, 2004, the applicant mailed an Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.111 to the U.S. Patent Office in response to the Office Action mailed on March 24, 2004. In that Amendment, the applicant asserted that an A-frame coupler attaches to the two frame members of the trailer that meet at the front end of the trailer to form "the tip of an A" and incorporates a ball socket for receiving a hitch ball. Submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration is a signed Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 by Mr. E. Paul Green. Mr. Green declares that:

"the term A-fram coupler has a meaning well-known in the art. As commonly known in the art, an A-frame coupler is an element that attaches to the two frame members of the trailer that meet at the front end of the trailer to form "the tip of an A" and incorporates a ball socket for receiving a hitch ball. Therefore, it is a mischaracterization to state that any frame member on the front of the vehicle may be termed an A-frame coupler."

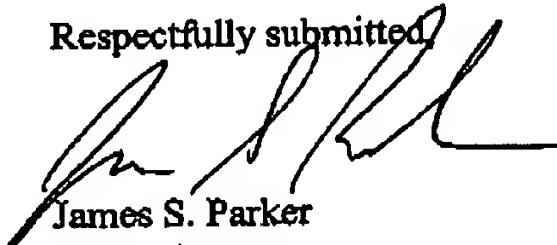
Attached with Mr. Green's declaration are excerpts from two on-line catalogs of companies that sell A-frame couplers, which show photographs of such A-frame couplers. Accordingly, the applicant asserts that it is a mischaracterization to state that any frame member of the front of the vehicle may be termed an A-frame coupler, as stated on page 3 of the March 24, 2004 Office Action. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, the applicant believes that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this response, or if the Examiner believes there remains any valid ground upon which any claim in this application may be rejected subsequent to entrance of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Declaration Under 37 C.F.R §1.132